

ONTARIO ARGUS

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M. E. BAIN, Publisher.

So far the Enterprise has been able to name five men who oppose the removal of the county seat to Ontario, W. P. Caviness, R. G. Wheeler, W. S. Lawrence, J. W. Lynd and Julian Hurley. The petition of the tax payers contains 2500 names asking for such removal.

The last issue of the Enterprise contained a very unusual reference to the bible, that is it was unusual for the Enterprise. Somebody contributed a quotation from Luke, 12-15, "Thou Shalt Not Covet." We make the assertion that it was contributed, for knowing the Enterprise bunch as we do, we are willing to bet a new hat that the bible is as much of a stranger to them as a book on ecorum would be to a Fiji Islander. If an Angel of light ever strayed into that newspaper office they would graft her out of her harp before she could get away. Think of Roberts and Rigby quoting biblical authority! It is to laugh.

Now Lets See Where We're at.

In its proxymys of diamay the Enterprise is getting pretty well mixed up in its statements to the public about the court house that Ontario is going to donate to the county in the event that the county seat is removed to Ontario. They have told you that Ontario will never build a court house, they have likewise made the statement that we will build a court house but it will only cost \$30,000 and will be too small, then they say that we will move the old court house down from Vale, and have also stated that we will spend \$200,000 for a court house, and in their letter to you and every other tax payer in the county they intimate that on the first stormy day next winter we will hold a special election and vote bonds for some enormous sum and spend it all for a court house. Just light some where, Roberts and if you stay in the same place long enough so that we can tell what you mean we will enlighten you about that court house proposition.

That Open Letter.

Last week the Enterprise published a long letter signed by R. G. Wheeler, W. S. Lawrence and J. W. Lynd, and written by some body else, addressed to W. E. Lees and the Ontario Commercial Club asking a lot of questions and demanding an answer by return mail. Let us say gentlemen that this club is pretty busy and don't care to waste time fooling with fruitless clap trap, but if you are in earnest we will make you this proposition. Suppose that we point out the location of the new court house, suppose that we let you count the money we are going to get for our bonds, suppose you come to Ontario and examine the detailed plans for the new building, suppose that we point out the place where the prisoners cut their way through the walls of the present jail with a table knife, suppose we agree to answer each of these questions to your entire satisfaction, will you then agree to vote for a removal of the county seat to Ontario. If you will so agree we will attempt to enlighten you, if you won't, say so and quit bluffing.

One Bill to Vote Against.

The bill creating the office of Lieutenant Governor is typical of the kind that adds to the machinery of the state government and at the same time does not do any material good. The amendment would create a job for some one and a job paying the neat sum of \$10 per day.

It is generally admitted that the state government is already top-heavy with too many public officials, boards and commissioners. High taxes and bureaus are known to be good friends, so those office seekers who were after nominations last spring expressed in their slogans the fact that they were opposed to commissions and would reduce taxation. Such slogans made ideal bait for voters, for the people at that time clearly demonstrated their ideas in the matter. Here comes a measure which would create a new office and in time add to the expense of the state. If the voters are unchanged from their attitude of six months ago, this bill will surely fail.

Drives People off the Land.

England is about to plow up 200 golf courses and plant them to grain. In its time of calamity and distress the nation goes back to the land. If it is advisable for a nation to go back to the land in time of war, wouldn't it be a pretty good sort of a thing

for it to keep pretty close to the land all the time? The nation that uses its land is strong and self-reliant.

England has done something which may well cause our own country to consider the importance of the farms and the development of agricultural resources. Any unjust taxation upon the land, through the states, holds back this development and the proposed \$1500 tax exemption amendment to be voted upon in Oregon this fall is the sort of thing, which by adding from 35 to 50 per cent to the tax upon land tends to keep the people away from the farms.

The County seat removal campaign is designated by the Enterprise as a movement headed by the Ontario real estate boomers and W. E. Lees. They forgot to add that the movement was backed up by 2500 tax payers. With those leaders and that kind of backing the movement ought to be a success. What do you think of it John?

Charles Becker, who has been a resident of what is now Malheur County for over forty years, living west of Vale, comes through Vale to Ontario to do most of his business. He was here this week and stated that he had been doing business with the Ontario business men for many years and has always found that when they promised anything they went through with the promise and when they promise to build a court house, in case the people decide to move the county seat to Ontario, there is no question but what they will carry out their part of the contract.

ESKIMOS NOT PAGAN.

Have Religious Books and Practically All Can Read and Write.

Ottawa.—According to a census bulletin giving some details of Canada's farthest north population, there are some 600 Eskimos in Ungava. On the east coast of Hudson bay and on the west coast and in the Churchill district the total population is given as 1,588, of whom 1,390 are Eskimos, 189 Indians, 26 half breeds and 22 whites.

Some interesting information is given as to the character and habits of life of the Dominion's population in the northern wilds. Speaking of the Eskimos on the east coast of Hudson bay, Rev. R. J. Robinson, archdeacon of Moose, who took the census, says:

"Of 600 Eskimos thought to be living on the east coast of Hudson bay, 542 names were obtained. The names are stated to be thoroughly reliable, but the ages would be pure guesswork.

"In calling most of them pagans it must be remembered that they are so in name only, since all of them have their religious books and practically every one of the age of ten can read them. Heathen practices are a thing of the past. The majority of the people live in the most squalid conditions and are destitute of proper clothing through the failure of the deer, which long ago were numerous along the east coast of Hudson bay."

The report of Courtlandt Starnes, commissioner of customs at Fort Churchill and local superintendent of the royal northwest mounted police, covered the western shores of Hudson bay from Fort Churchill to the northern extremity of Melville peninsula. Mr. Starnes divided the work into three parts and appointed an enumerator for each. Some of the work was done on trails covered heavily with snow and with the temperature never above 40 below zero.

Sergeant Hayter reported that the people in his district had no idea whatever of their age and they knew nothing of our divisions of time. They are sometimes polygamists, sometimes polyandrists. They are fond of children, but change them about, adopting some or giving their own away, according to convenience, so that it was hard to reckon by families.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL HELD AT BIG BEND

Was a Great Success in All Respects.

GREAT SPREAD FOR VISITORS

The people of the Big Bend held a harvest home on Saturday in their park and invited the people of the surrounding country to join them and see what they have done in a few years in the way of reclaiming some sage brush lands.

Where the fair was held is a beautiful park with fine trees and good grassy lawns, this was all a sand patch two years ago and is an example of what water and sand will do when properly mixed.

There was a large shed erected for the exhibits but it was too small and many of the articles were piled on the outside. It is the intention of the community to have a fine building erected so that there will be a place for the people to meet and hold their entertainments.

There was a great variety of articles exhibited and the corn and potatoes were especially fine. The corn will be heard from when sent to Salem, as Western Oregon cannot produce anything near so good.

Clover seed and popcorn are two crops that are making records for that section. Fred Pillsbury has twenty acres of popcorn that is going to be a record breaker for yield, the stalks are very thick and each one of them is well located with ears. Zeke Brumbach is the best known among the clover seed raisers and he frequently receives from ninety to a hundred dollars from an acre.

There was a spread for the four hundred present and there was one general verdict regarding the quality of the food prepared, that it had never been excelled in this county, those from Ontario compared it to a spread they had at Nyssa a short time ago, which they pronounced the best they had ever seen, but now they are guessing as to which was the better. Those ladies are certainly good cooks and know how to select a lunch for a bunch of hungry people.

After the eats and some music by the Vale band there were a few short talks.

Thomas Welsh acted as chairman and called the meeting to order. He spoke of the objects of the gathering, to show the people of the other sections of the county their great need of a bridge and the rich section they had and hoped that all who were present would assist them on election day.

Zeke Brumbach was called on for a historical sketch of the Big Bend and he gave them a witty talk, going back to the dark ages and tracing the development up to the present.

Mrs. Dunlap, of Vale favored with two selections, which were well rendered and well received.

Will Stradley rendered popular selections on a tuba in a masterful manner.

Prof. French of the extension department of the Oregon Agricultural college gave a short talk on how the farms through the farm adviser and college is now taking the school to the

the extension department. He warmly advised the erection of a building for their meetings and the building of a bridge.

Mrs. Robinson, of the College, spoke of the work being done along the lines of domestic economy.

Mayor Trow made a few remarks about intensified farming and the dairy business. The mayor has had much experience along those lines and gave them some good ideas. Mr. Dean spoke of the great development being made in the agricultural business.

Mr. Crandall made a talk on the flag, it being flag day. And the most successful meeting even held in the Big Bend was brought to a close, all the visitors voting the people royal entertainers.



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